



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD, BRANSON MEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms.

* **Joshua M. Tilson**, 23, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this afternoon to 15 years in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 18, 2004, **Tilson** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Tilson** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on March 12, 2003, in Howell County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Tilson** has five 1999 criminal felony convictions for stealing and burglary.

Tilson was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 17, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was investigated by the Howell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **John E. Horne, III**, 21, of Branson, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this afternoon to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On March 1, 2004, **Horne** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Horne** admitted that he was in possession of a Chinese manufactured SKS semi-automatic rifle, a Norinco SKS semi-automatic rifle, a Hungarian manufactured MAC-90 semi-automatic rifle, a Mossberg pistol-grip shotgun and a Marlin .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle on

June 30, 2003, in Taney County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Horne** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Horne was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. The case was investigated by the Branson, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Brent R. Fox**, 43, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this afternoon to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

Fox pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Fox** admitted that he was in possession of a Glock .45-caliber pistol, a Ruger .223-caliber rifle, a National Fire Arms 12-gauge shotgun, an Enfield .303-caliber rifle and a Remington .22 caliber rifle, together with ammunition, on Feb. 4, 2002, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Fox** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Fox was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 1, 2002, in Springfield.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Douglas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow